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In a synopsis of the rice rats (*Oryzomys*) of the United States and Mexico, Merriam (*Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, Vol. III, pp. 273-295) adds twenty-two new species and subspecies to the thirteen already known.

Phoronis pacifica, a new species described by H. B. Torrey (*Biological Bulletin*, Vol. II, pp. 283-288), is interesting as the first of this almost cosmopolitan genus to be taken on our west coast.

BOTANY.

Plant Life of Alabama.¹—For nearly forty years the late Dr. Mohr gave close attention to the flora of his adopted home, Alabama; and the later years of his life were devoted to the preparation of a book embodying the results of his long study. He lived to see the last proof sheets corrected, but the date of its publication is a fortnight later than that of his death. A historical account of the botanical work done in Alabama, a detailed study of its physiography, geology, and meteorology, and a discussion of the general principles of plant distribution, lead to an analysis of the features marking the Alabama flora, which, more than any other North American work, exemplifies the trend of modern ecological study in a varied region; and the book closes with an annotated systematic catalogue of the spontaneous plants, including descriptions of new or critical species, a discussion of the relations of the flora to agriculture, and a list of plants known to be cultivated in the state. Considering Dr. Mohr's advanced age, it is remarkable that he should have adapted himself to the current trend of American botanists in regard to nomenclature, but in this, as in his grasp of the newer field problems in botany, he shows a plasticity far out of the ordinary run, and his work, which is of lasting value, is likely to produce nowhere the impression that a younger man, if possessed of his knowledge, could have done it better.

W. T.

Notes.—The varied and far-reaching character of the botanical work being done under the geological and natural history survey of Minnesota is shown by part 5 of the current series of *Minnesota*

¹ Mohr, Charles. *Plant Life of Alabama*, *Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb.*, vol. vi. 921 pp., with several plates. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1901.